GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5257
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008
COCHLEAR IMPLANT FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Hospitals in the country where facilities of Cochlear Implants are available for deaf children;

(b) the various tests that are required to be undertaken before such implant;

(c) the number of cochlear implants performed in the country during each of the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether any implants have been done to pre-lingually deaf children above the age of 10 years;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the results; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure safety of the children undergoing such implants?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) The names of the hospitals in the country where facilities of cochlear implants are available for deaf children is not documented by the Government.

(b) The following tests are required to be undertaken to determine the suitability for Cochlear Implant.

Essential audiological tests:

Conditioned audiometry

Auditory Evoked Potentials, preferable tone burst audiometry brain system evoked potentials & audiometry steady state potentials

Immittance evaluation

Otoacoustic emission evaluation

Hearing aid trial

Desirable audiological tests:

Speech audiometry

Electrical evoked brain stem potentials when indicated

Essential non audiological tests:

CT scan and MRI of the structures of the ear including the internal auditory meatus

Other routine tests required for any surgery

(c) to (e) No such data is maintained/available with the Government.

(f) The government have not issued any guidelines on the safety norms to be adopted for undertaking cochlear implants on the children.However all ENT surgeons conducting the surgery ensure that adequate safety measures-as taken for performing other surgeries-are being adopted for conducting Cochlear implant surgery on children.